



City of Rowlett

Meeting Minutes

City Council

4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088
www.rowlett.com

City of Rowlett City Council meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact the City Secretary at 972-412-6115 or write 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas, 75088, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Thursday, August 15, 2013
Friday, August 16, 2013

6:30 P.M.

Municipal Building – 4000 Main Street

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

Thursday, August 15, 2013

Present: Mayor Gottel, Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore, Councilmember Pankratz, Councilmember Dana-Bashian, Councilmember Bobbitt, and Councilmember Phillips

Absent: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gottel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and provided opening comments, thanking staff for their hard work in putting the budget together. He explained that working with the five year budget model and two year budget presentation there is talk of the budget all year long and there are no surprises at the time of the budget presentation.

2. Discuss operating funds and policy implication.

Interim City Manager, Brian Funderburk, explained that along with the presentation of the FY2014 budget, there will also be a lot of discussion about FY2015 due to economic constraints and reaching "a wall". Mr. Funderburk outlined the major points of why the budget amount is increased over the past year.

Council discussion regarding comparisons to other cities in terms of number of employees, salaries, and review of efficiencies by department. A Councilmember inquired about Social Security benefits and Mr. Funderburk quickly reviewed that Rowlett had selected to opt out of Social Security in the 1980's.

Erin Jones, Director of Development Services, explained that due to development interest, the parking study should be done now. By conducting the study in conjunction with the North Shore study, there will be a better rate.

Council discussion regarding parks and capital funding, specifically related to Lakeside Park. There was further discussion regarding undeveloped parks in terms of cost of upkeep and potential use by developers. Mayor Gottel briefly explained the process to de-park land.

Council discussion regarding technology replacement and vehicle replacement, which is now on a replacement schedule with objective parameters for replacement set by Council. Focus also on efficiencies generated by technology and within departments.

Mr. Funderburk reviewed changes projected for sales, tax, franchise fees, licenses and permits, fees and charges, court fines, general fund expenditures, and personnel costs. Mayor Gottel commented that operationally, staff has presented a balanced budget with no increase for the past nine years.

Council discussion regarding the reorganization of staff in Public Works and Development Services.

Discussion regarding infrastructure and street repair vs. reconstruction and concrete vs. asphalt.

A member of Council inquired about a zero-based budgeting process. Mr. Funderburk explained that over the years, the budget has been cut across all departments and staff has gone as low as they can go, which negates the need for zero-based budgeting.

3. Adjournment

Mayor Gottel reviewed the dates for the public hearings relating to the budget and tax rate and then adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Friday, August 16, 2013

Present: Mayor Gottel, Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore, Councilmember Pankratz, Councilmember Dana-Bashian, Councilmember Bobbitt

Absent: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops, Councilmember Phillips

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Gottel arrived at 6:38 p.m.

2. Discuss operating funds, Capital Improvements Plan, and proposed budget.

Mr. Funderburk provided an overview of the Utility CIP projects, which mostly address the Upper Pressure Plan.

Council discussion regarding the 45psi standard and the possible inadequacies, which staff explained would be the lowest pressure at high use times.

Discussion regarding the sidewalk 50/50 replacement program and the limited amount of funding.

Public Works staff explained the process for street repair and asphalt vs. concrete and repair vs. replacement followed by an explanation of the alley repair/replacement program. Mayor Gottel noted that only 60% of the homes have alleys and have to determine a way to help fund the repair/replacement that is equitable to all residents.

Mr. Funderburk reviewed the Water and Sewer Maintenance Plan, which led to a discussion regarding the sewer line that runs beneath Lake Ray Hubbard and the need to address a section for repair.

Mr. Funderburk reviewed possible projects for a possible bond election in 2015.

It was the consensus of Council to reallocate funds for the following: sidewalk 50/50 replacement program and increase the amount to \$40,000; and reallocate \$300,000 for the repair of the sewer line under Lake Ray Hubbard.

Council discussion regarding the new Library operations system, upcoming studies being funded, consulting services over the next fiscal year, potential crime issues in the downtown area resulting from DART, and funding for special events.

Mr. Funderburk restated there was no tax increase for this year and that staff will continue to be focused on customer service through the year. He thanked the Councilmembers for their direction and staff for their hard work on putting together the budget.

Mayor Gottel thanked staff for their hard work and reiterated there was no tax increase for the ninth straight year and Council will have to determine how much of a tax increase can be supported or look at cutting services. He reviewed dates for the upcoming budget public hearings

3. Adjournment

Mayor Gottel adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.


Todd W. Gottel, Mayor


Laura Hallmark, City Secretary

Date Approved: September 17, 2013

